2016-17 Evans School Capstone Project Requirement

All MPA students must complete a capstone project (CP) that integrates knowledge and skills gained at the Evans School. The majority of students enroll in Capstone Project Seminars and either participate in the Public Service Clinics or bring their own topic.

There are five ways to complete the capstone project requirement:

Public Service Clinics (in a Capstone Project Seminar)
- Apply for public and nonprofit organization-generated topics
- Get matched with a project and student teammates
- Conduct a 3-way meeting with client and CP instructor
- Enroll in a 4-credit Capstone Project Seminar meeting Friday mornings in both Winter and Spring Quarters (8 credits total)

Self-Generated Capstone Project (in a Capstone Project Seminar)
- Generate your own topic (with or without a client), either individually or as a student team
- Enroll in a 4-credit Capstone Project Seminar in both Winter and Spring Quarters (8 credits total). Most seminars meet Friday morning, while one seminar will meet on a weeknight.

Deep Dives
- Take a “deep-dive” class on a particular policy and/or management topic in which a faculty member has expertise (topic descriptions appear on the next page). Two "deep-dive" classes will be offered in 2016-17, one led by Professor Brian Dillon and one led by Professor Jake Vigdor.
- Enroll in a 4-credit seminar meeting Friday mornings Winter Quarter

Case-Writing Seminar
- Students select their own case topics or choose from a catalog of cases in development
- Enroll in a 4-credit seminar in both Winter and Spring Quarters (8 credits total) led by Professor Steve Page

Certificate Programs
- Complete the International Development Policy and Management Certificate (IDCP), Nonprofit Management Certificate (NMCP), or the College of the Environment’s Environmental Management Certificate. Note: Environmental Policy Program Option Students must fulfill the capstone requirement through the Public Service Clinics, a Deep Dive Seminar, or a Capstone Project Seminar.
- Schedules and credit requirements vary by certificate
Special Situations

**PCMI students** can complete one of the options on the previous page or an independent study capstone project (outside of the Capstone Project Seminars) with a faculty member on a self-generated topic. See the PCMI addendum to the student handbook for more details.

**Concurrent degree students** can count their master’s thesis in lieu of a capstone project when the thesis has a substantial policy/management component and an Evans School faculty member is on the thesis committee. See the student handbook for more details.

**Resources**

**Capstone Project Options:** [http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/degree-and-capstone-project-options](http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/degree-and-capstone-project-options)

**Student Handbook:** [http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/student-handbooks](http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/student-handbooks)

**Public Service Clinics:** [http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/public-service-clinics](http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/public-service-clinics)

**Certificate Programs:** [http://evans.uw.edu/academic-programs/certificates-and-program-options](http://evans.uw.edu/academic-programs/certificates-and-program-options)

**Capstone Project Archive:** [http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/capstone-project-archive](http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/capstone-project-archive)
Professor Steve Page’s Case-Writing Seminar

- During the Winter and Spring 2017 quarters, Professor Steve Page will teach a special Capstone Seminar in which students write teaching cases.
- The Seminar fulfills the Capstone requirement for the MPA degree, and offers an opportunity to study a specific policy or management challenge in detail.
- Select your own case topics, or choose from a catalogue of cases in development.
- Teaching cases include a “Teaching Note” as well as a traditional paper or multi-media case. The Electronic Hallway will review completed teaching cases for publication.
- Course schedule and enrollment are similar to other Capstone Seminars (meet weekly in Winter Quarter and 3-4 times in Spring; register for four credits in each quarter).
- Admission is by permission of the instructor (sbp@uw.edu).
  - The application will require a resume, writing sample, and an Evans School faculty reference (not a letter of recommendation, just a name). The application deadline will be in October 2016.
  - Please contact Professor Page if you have any questions.

Professor Brian Dillon’s Deep Dive Seminar

This class will use quantitative methods to explore a question or set of questions relevant to economic policy or political economy in developing countries. I have not chosen the final theme yet. One possibility is to apply modern data science techniques -- machine learning, text analysis, or scraping -- to address policy questions from sub-Saharan Africa. Or, we might survey individuals sending remittances from Seattle to developing countries and then attempt to conduct follow-up phone surveys with the recipient households. Or we will do something else entirely. Final details will be available in the fall.

Preference will be given to students who take PUBPOL 529 in the fall 2016 term. If there are more than 15 applicants who are enrolled in 529, then Professor Dillon will randomly choose 15 of those students for the deep dive. If there are fewer than 15 applicants who are enrolled in 529, then they will all be accepted into the deep dive, and the remaining slots will be randomly assigned to students who are not enrolled in 529. If you are enrolled in 529 but you withdraw or do not pass, you will have to withdraw from the deep dive, too. Substitutes for 529, such as other advanced quantitative analysis courses, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Professor Dillon will only consider substitute courses that you take in the fall 2016 term and that are offered outside of Evans. If you are unsure whether a certain course will count as a substitute, check with Professor Dillon (bdillon2@uw.edu) at the earliest possible date.

Professor Jake Vigdor’s Deep Dive Seminar

Participants in the 2017 Minimum Wage deep dive will conduct research to determine the state of the labor market immediately after large employers move to the full $15/hour level on January 1st. Deep dive participants will gather data and narratives from a variety of sources, and use a mix of qualitative and quantitative techniques to make inferences about how business have adapted to higher wages and how workers perceive net changes in their quality of life. Participants will contribute to a written report and presentation, and may have the opportunity to present their findings to a meeting of elected officials and other stakeholders at City Hall at the end of the quarter.
Capstone Project Options

Public Service Clinics
- Review and apply for public and nonprofit organization-generated topics online.
  - Receive match
  - Accept match
  - Enroll in a Capstone Project Seminar
    - Capstone Project Next Steps Meeting
      - Capstone Project Seminars
        - Meet weekly Winter and every other week Spring Quarter
        - Present projects (optional)
      - Instructor Sign-Off and Submit to CP Archive

Self-Generated Topic
- Define your own CP with or without a client agency
  - Decline match and apply for an unmatched project or define your own CP
  - Capstone Project Next Steps Meeting

Case-Writing Seminar
- Apply through Professor Page
  - Select own case topics, or choose from catalogue of cases in development
  - Meet twice a month Winter and Spring Quarters
  - Submit completed case to Electronic Hallway

Deep Dives
- Apply via online form
  - Receive notification of whether admitted
  - If admitted: confirm intent to enroll and receive add code
  - Meet at least weekly Winter Quarter
  - Student teams evaluate a particular policy and/or management issue
  - Class as a whole develops written report and presentation

Autumn
Winter
Spring